



NLG NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Publication of the Numismatic Literary Guild Inc.

Volume 26, No. 3

November 1994

HIGH GEAR IN THE MOTOR CITY! NLG AND THE DETROIT CONVENTION

By Col. Bill Murray

Despite dire predictions on the part of some, the American Numismatic Association's 103rd anniversary convention went off with no problems discernible to me. More than adequate security was evident both in and outside the hotels and COBO Hall, the convention center.

The NLG Bash, ably emceed by Wendell Wolka, provided grins, giggles, guffaws and groans — all deserved. A somewhat reduced number of awards (which many thought a good thing) went to deserving authors, editors and publishers.

Though I haven't seen all the entries, I have read many of the articles and columns which were published in the numismatic press, and those with which I was familiar deserved accolades. Philip Mossman's book, "Money of the American Colonies and Confederation," and Dave Bowers' "Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars of the United States" certainly deserved their honors. Both of these books impress the reader with detailed scholarly approaches to their respective subjects.

As usual, the highlight of the Bash was the awarding of the Clemy by the previous year's recipient — in this case, Russ Rulau. The standing ovation



*Elvira Clain-Stefanelli accepts 1994 NLG Clemy Award
presented by the 1993 recipient, Russell Rulau.*

Photo courtesy of Coin World

given to this year's winner, Elvira Clain-Stefanelli, indicated the approval of those in attendance.

The NLG symposium on "How to Get Your Book Published" deserved attendance by all book authors or would-be authors. Bob Julian, as moderator, interspersed a few pertinent observations while speakers Dave Bowers and Scott Travers shared their evident expertise with cogent comments useful to all who wish to publish.

NLG's awards are designed to encourage good writing, editing and publishing in numismatics through recognition of those who

have done well. Certainly, the award ceremony holds the interest of all who are present — especially those competing.

One last thought, not NLG-related: The participation of the American Numismatic Society with a day's worth of presentations in the Numismatic Theater merits special attention. Carefully selected speakers presented in-depth discourses on various subjects. I had to miss a few of them, but those I could attend were first-rate. Both the ANA and the ANS should be congratulated on this cooperative effort.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Ed Reiter

The frost is on the pumpkin, the hay is in the barn - and here at NLG Central, we're battening down the hatches for another fierce assault by Old Man Winter.

As we look ahead to winter, though, our thoughts still stray to summer and Detroit, where we gathered not so long ago for this year's edition of the Guild's annual Bash.

Over the years, ANA conventions and NLG Bashes tend to become a blur in the mind's eye, blending into each other like so many ghosts of Christmases past. This year's Bash will always stand apart in my personal book of memories, though, because of all the obstacles we had to overcome to get the show on the road — or, more precisely, in the room.

Those of you who attended ANA convention events, including the Bash, at the Westin Hotel in Detroit this year will join me, I suspect, in a huge collective shudder at the thought of all the traffic jams we had to endure — not on the city's streets, but inside (and in front of) the hotel's elevators. My wife, Patt, and I spent more than half an hour trying to get an elevator for the 47-floor descent from our room level at the Westin to the ANA banquet hall, finally succeeding only by going up and then down. Meanwhile, one of our children was pinned against the wall of another Westin elevator, unable to get out, for a similar length of time before pushing her

way to the front of — and through — the madding crowd.

For sheer terror, though, nothing can surpass the sense of panic I felt on entering the Westin's St. Clair Ballroom, the site of the '94 Bash, two-and-a-half hours before the event was to start. Quick calculation revealed that there was seating for fewer than 100 people — not much more than half the amount we would need — with only limited space for additional tables and chairs. What's more, the hotel's staff, while not unsympathetic, was not about to deal with anyone but Kay Lenker, our treasurer, since she was the one who had made the arrangements for the room. And Kay would not arrive (nor did she need to arrive) until about an hour before the program began.

To complicate matters further, our Bash tickets specified the site as the Marquette Room — the room that had been listed on the ANA convention schedule published in *The Numismatist*. Fearing the hotel had committed a blunder in switching us to the St. Clair Room (or perhaps that saboteurs had sought to torpedo the show), I went at once to check out the Marquette Room. It proved to be a glorified broom closet, hardly big enough for Wendell Wolka's table full of skills.

All's well that ends well, I suppose. Kay arrived, additional tables and chairs were brought in — and by the time Wendell opened the proceedings around 10 o'clock, just about everyone was seated (much the way sardines are seated inside a can). There were many anxious moments, though. And a huge roar of laughter greeted Dave Bowers and Scott Travers when Dave divined the answer "Close quarters" during their swami skit and the question turned out to be: "How would you describe the accommodations at this year's NLG Bash?"

As regular Bash-goers know, the Bowers-Travers routine is based upon the Karnak bit that

Johnny Carson performed on the old "Tonight Show." The Wolfeboro Swami figures out the answers to questions contained in sealed envelopes, and his soft-spoken confederate then reads the answers for the audience's amazement — or at least for its amusement. One of the other answers at this year's Bash, for instance, was: "A profit without honor." And the question was: "What do you call the proceeds from the U.S. Mint's new commemorative coins?"

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This year's program included more than the usual quota of musical "entertainment." My own offering was a "tribute" to the so-called legal-tender coins issued by the so-called Hutt River Principality in western Australia. Sung to the tune of "Moon River," it began: "Hutt River, phony as a slug, they're gonna pull the plug on you ..." Mel Wachs, an unabashed shill for Prince Leonard, warbled a clever rebuttal set to the strains of "The 12 Days of Christmas." Sandwiched around these ditties were three (count 'em, three!) separate satirical songs rendered (in the best slaughterhouse tradition) by Greg Heim.

The highlight — or perhaps, more accurately, the LOW light — of the evening's entertainment was a mock meeting of the ANA "Board of Grubbers" chaired by yours truly and featuring Anthony Swiatek and Chris Connell in multiple roles as mem-

bers of the board. Answering "Here" when the clerk called the role were President David Glands, Vice President Ken Bursitis and "Grubbers" Helen Comedy, Ken Hole-in-head, David Lisot-so, John Jay Pit-bull, Florence "Baby" Snooks, Anthony Sciatica and Nancy Want-list.

The mock meeting's purpose was to think of new ways for the ANA to raise needed revenue — something along the lines of the hugely successful "Weird Mint Council" convened this year in Detroit by President Glands. Staying very much in character, Tony "Sciatica" called for the issuance of official ANA condoms. Ken "Hole-in-head" mentioned that he and Barbara Gregory have been thinking of proposing official ANA Ken and Barbie dolls, then proclaimed the ANA Golden Rule: "When money talks, your ANA Board talks about money."

The audience was told of a major new development involving

one of the members of the Weird Mint Council:

"The Singapore Mint is issuing a special series of coins to commemorate the caning of Michael Fay. They're being made in gold, silver, bronze, platinum, palladium, ruthenium, and iridium, with permanent black-and-blue reverses. And a limited-edition set will be produced in bamboo. Everyone's invited to a first-strike ceremony tomorrow, but in deference to President Clinton, the number of board members permitted to do the striking has been reduced from six to only four."

Harvey G. Stack, a partner in the long-established New York family coin firm, made a brief appearance early in the program — courtesy of an Ed Reiter impression — and said that he would assign a grade of MS-67 to our organization ... "but since I don't accept numerical grading, I'll settle for calling you gem, choice and brilliant."

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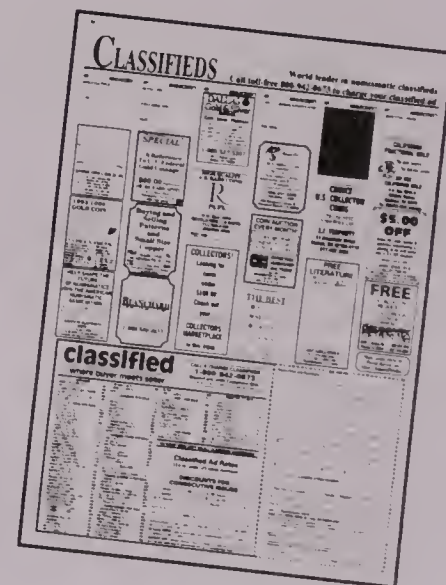
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With strong moral (and vocal) support from his shills, Wendell Wolka did another fantastic job keeping the show on track and on target. He truly has become an indispensable man during his half-decade as Bash emcee.

At length (some might argue TOO MUCH length), we put on our serious face and turned to the announcement of winners in the 1994 NLG Writers' Competition. The number of awards was pruned a bit this year, making the recognition even more meaningful. And as he has done in each of the last four years, contest coordinator Scott Travers succeeded in having all the handsome award plaques — more than four dozen, in all — prepared and delivered in time for presentation at the Bash. This is an incredibly difficult task, given the number of awards and the narrow time frame, but Scott pulls it off every time without a hitch. He also oversees the selection of judges and correlation of judging — so if we had an award for the Guild's "Most Valuable Player," Scott would get my vote hands-down.

The biggest award we have, of course, is the Clemy and this year's presentation was especially dramatic. In making it, last year's winner, Russ Rulau, delivered one of the most eloquent presentation speeches in memory. (For those who missed it, the speech is reprinted elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.) And it soon became apparent that the drama was totally appropriate, for the 1994 winner turned out to be one of numismatics' Great Ladies: Elvira Clain-Stefanelli, curator of the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

We owe a special thank-you to Margo Russell, a Clemy recipient herself two decades ago, for making sure that this year's winner joined us at the Bash. It took a lot of effort — but typically, Margo was equal to the task.

Margo has performed a tremendous service, as well, by strengthening the ties between the Guild and the American Numismatic Society. She has signed up several important ANS figures as NLG members — and even signed up the ANS itself as a member club. She also induced several ANS members to submit entries in this year's Writers' Competition — and one of them, Dr. Philip L. Mossman, emerged with a major award for the Best U.S. Coin Book of the year.

Books, by the way, were the subject of this year's NLG Symposium. It was titled "So You Want to Write a Book," and featured a panel of three distinguished numismatic book authors: Q. David Bowers, Scott Travers and R.W. Julian. They offered helpful hints on how to put together a hobby-related book and — just as important — how to get it published, publicized and sold.

On the subject of sales, we still have a small supply of the one-ounce silver medals we issued last year for the 25th anniversary of the Guild. We also have copies of the 50-page "25-Year History" booklet written on that occasion by David T. Alexander. While supplies last, the medal and booklet are being offered for a combined price of \$25. This is postpaid in the United States and Canada; postage is additional elsewhere. The booklet alone can be obtained for \$5 postpaid. Orders should be sent to me, as follows: Ed Reiter, 12 Abbington Ter., Glen Rock, N.J. 07452.

The .999-fine silver medal — the first precious-metal collectible ever issued by the Guild — features a handsome portrait of our antique typewriter logo. Just 250 examples were struck, and only a few dozen remain unsold.

One final note: The NLG Board has authorized the creation of a new Life Membership category. The fee is \$250, and this covers not only the membership itself but also a silver anniversary medal, an NLG history booklet

and a handsome certificate suitable for framing.

To date, eight members have converted to Life Membership status. They are: Scott Travers, Anthony Swiatek, Tom DeLorey, Dave Bowers, Harvey Stack, Bill Murray, Mike Fuljenz and myself. This is a wonderful way to support the Guild's activities and ensure that we ourselves, organizationally, will enjoy a long and healthy life.

To apply, write to me at the address given earlier: 12 Abbington Ter., Glen Rock, N.J. 07452. Or call me at (201) 612-0482.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: In making the presentation of the 1994 Clemy Award, last year's honoree, Russ Rulau, delivered a stirring commentary on the award's significance. Following are Russ's eloquent remarks.

The Clemy Award - 1994

By Russ Rulau

How important is the Clemy Award? It is the highest honor the Numismatic Literary Guild can bestow, but just how important is that?

Is it on a par with the Farran Zerbe Award of the American Numismatic Association, for example, or the Archer Huntington Medal of the American Numismatic Society?

The Clemy has been awarded for each of the 25 years of the existence of the Guild, from 1968 when it went to Clement F. Bailey, for whom it is named, through 1993 when my peers awarded its Silver Anniversary version to me.

My hat size, incidentally, swelled a year ago and I cannot seem able to bring it back to normal again. Maybe that is one way to measure the award's importance.

I've given this question a lot of thought.

We in the NLG are writers. We influence numismatics more than we probably realize. Our news stories reveal the truths about our

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hobby, whether for better or for ill. Our research articles open new paths, answer old questions and they inform, inform, inform.

Our books steady the roiling waters of numismatics. They explore, define, categorize, evaluate and illustrate. They become the rungs on which others can climb the numismatic ladder.

Our editorial opinions provoke thought. Reading back over issues of The Numismatist, Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, Numismatic News, Coin World, World Coins, Bank Note Reporter, World Coin News, COINage, Canadian Coin News and the many other periodicals that have supported our hobby, we are struck by the really marvelous expositions of opinion which editorial writers have expressed over the years – on more subjects than we can even comprehend today.

Our auction catalogs have recorded for posterity the greatest sales of two centuries of European and American collections, placing these accumulations in perfect historic perspective for today's students.

Journalism is, in my humble opinion, the noblest of all professions – as well as being one of the least paid.

NUMISMATIC journalism thus must be pure as well as noble, and it is! The deliberate hyping of a coin issue for profit is the activity of a less-than-honest coin dealer. Yes, such folks have been seen on rare occasions in our hobby!

So, if numismatic journalism is the noblest and purest of the efforts of our hobby, must it not follow that the NLG's Clemy Award is in fact in a class by itself among any of the top awards our beloved hobby can bestow?

We can certainly make a good case for that conclusion. Besides, here in our annual Bash -- where overstatement is the norm and hyperbole flows naturally from the lips -- who is going to dispute?

But, there is an even better test. I have in front of me the roster of Clemy Award winners of the past 25 years. Reading it over sounds

like the Who's Who of American Numismatics.

There must be a Numismatic Heaven somewhere. Walking those glittering streets are Clem Bailey, Virginia Culver, Maury Gould, Ray Byrne, Lee Hewitt, Abe Kosoff, Glenn Smedley, Walter Breen, Dick Yeoman and Eva Adams.

Imagine what spirited conversations they must be having!

Among the Clemy honorees still active today we find a veritable pantheon of our hobby's top people: Eric Newman, Dave Bowers, Chet Krause, Ed Rochette, Ken Bressett, Bob Julian, Cliff Mishler, Arlie Slabaugh, Ed Reiter.

Also Lee Martin, Donn Pearlman, Dave Alexander, Dave Ganz and Jim Miller.

If an award is as good as its past recipients, folks, it can't get any better than this!

Now, to 1994 and Clemy Award number 26. This person should have received the award

long since, but we all know the old adage about not being able to see trees for the forest.

This person is one of those trees. Our Clemy Award recipient is a sort of Numismatic Everyman, spelled out in shining capital letters. There I go again, making up another word!

This Numismatic Everyman has spent a half century or more in numismatics — author, writer, curator, coin dealer, auctioneer, cataloger, exhibitor, and authority par excellence.

It is a woman, but Numismatic Everyman just sounds much better than Every person. I guess I'll never get the hang of the neutralization of the English language by today's politically correct crowd.

Her "Select Numismatic Bibliography" alone would earn her the Clemy. Our honoree is the curator emeritus of the numismatic cabinet at the Smithsonian Institution, Elvira Clain-Stefanelli.

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1994

NLG Awards

Following is a complete list of winners in the 1994 Numismatic Literary Guild Writers' Competition. Congratulations to one and all!

CLASS 1 BOOKS

1. BOOK OF THE YEAR

The work having the greatest potential impact on numismatics: "Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars of the United States, A Complete Encyclopedia," by Q. David Bowers

2. BEST SPECIALIZED BOOK

- (a) United States Coins: "Money of the American Colonies and Confederation, A Numismatic, Economic and Historical Correlation," by Philip L. Mossman
- (b) World Coins: "Tempus in Nummis," by James O. Sweeny and Robert Turfboer
- (c) U.S. Paper Money: "The Engraver's Line," by Gene Hessler
- (d) World Paper Money: "Standard Catalog of World Paper Money, Seventh Edition," by Albert Pick
- (e) Tokens & Medals: "The Numismatic Aspects of Leprosy: Money, Medals & Miscellanea," by Roger R. McFadden, John Grost and Dennis F. Marr
- (f) Numismatic Investments: "Commemorative Coins of the United States, Identification and Price Guide," by Anthony Swiatek
- (g) Museum & Exhibition Catalogs: *No entries*

CLASS II-A

U.S. COMMERCIAL NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

3. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES

- (a) Coins: John Iddings, "Too

Many Commems," COINage
(b) Tokens & Medals: Kari Stone, "Opening Up to Medals," COINage

(c) Paper Money: Richard G. Doty, "The Coins & Currency of Early America," COINage

4. BEST COLUMN

"My Two Cents' Worth," Ed Reiter, COINage

5. BEST ISSUE

COINage, November 1993, James L. Miller, Publisher

CLASS II-B WORLD COMMERCIAL NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

6. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES

- (a) Coins: Robert W. Julian, "Massive 5-Kopek Coinage Begins With 1802 Issue," World Coin News
- (b) Tokens & Medals: Christopher Batio, "Pardon Me: How Much Is That in Spesmiloj?," World Coin News
- (c) Paper Money: *No entries*

7. BEST COLUMN

"Coin Critters," Dennis G. Rainey, World Coin News

8. BEST ISSUE

The Celator, December 1993, Steven A. Sayles, Editor

CLASS III NON-PROFIT OR CLUB NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

9. BEST ARTICLE

William A. Burd, "The Inscrutable 1894-S Dime," The Numismatist, February 1994

10. BEST COLUMN

"Notes on Paper," Gene Hessler, The Numismatist

11. BEST ISSUE

Paper Money, May-June 1993, Gene Hessler, Editor

CLASS IV NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS

12. BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

OR CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DEVELOPING STORY IN NUMISMATICS
William T. Gibbs, "The Counterfeiting Threat to U.S. Paper Money," Coin World

13. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES

- (a) Coins: Robert R. Van Ryzin, "Who Really Designed the Roosevelt Dime?" Numismatic News
- (b) Tokens & Medals: William E. Hagans, "Columbian Expo Medal Source of Controversy," Numismatic News
- (c) Paper Money: William T. Gibbs, "Old Glory No Longer Waves on Notes," Coin World

14. BEST COLUMN

TIE: "The Research Desk," David Alexander, Coin World, and "Paper Money News & Views," Neil Shafer, Bank Note Reporter

15. BEST ISSUE

Coin World, Nov. 29, 1993, Beth Deisher, Editor

CLASS V NON-NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS

16. THE MAURICE M. GOULD MEMORIAL AWARD

No entries

CLASS VI AUCTION CATALOGS

17. BEST AUCTION CATALOG

Stack's, "The Reed Hawn Collection"

CLASS VII COMMERCIAL PUBLICATIONS

18. LEE MARTIN FOUNDER'S AWARD for Best Investment Newsletter:

TIE: Maurice H. Rosen, The Rosen Numismatic Advisory, and Anthony Swiatek, The Swiatek Numismatic Report

19. **BEST DEALER-PUBLISHED MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER**
Rare Coin Review, Bowers and Merena Galleries

CLASS VIII
ALL-AROUND PORTFOLIO

20. **Best All-Around Portfolio:**
William T. Gibbs

CLASS IX
THE NLG NEWSLETTER

21. **Best Writer in the NLG Newsletter:**
Kerrey Rodgers

CLASS X
AUDIO-VISUAL

22. **RADIO: Best Radio Series:**
"Money Talks," American Numismatic Association, James Taylor, Producer

23. **AUDIO: Best Audio Program**
on Numismatics: *No entries*

24. **TELEVISION: Best Television**
Report on Numismatics:
Michael Fuljenz, KWHY

25. **VIDEO: Best Video**
Presentation: "Detecting
Counterfeit and Altered U.S.
Coins," American
Numismatic Association,
script by J.P. Martin, Produced
by David Lisot

CLASS XI
CLEMENT F. BAILEY
MEMORIAL AWARD

26. **CLEMENT F. BAILEY**
MEMORIAL AWARD for
Best New Writer: Eric von
Klinger, Krause Publications

ROLL OF HONOR
CLEMY AWARD WINNERS
1968-1994

- 1968 Clement F. Bailey
1969 Edward C. Rochette

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Lee Martin
Margo Russell
Virginia Culver
Maurice M. Gould
Eva B. Adams
Ray Byrne
Chester L. Krause
Richard S. Yeoman
Lee F. Hewitt
Abe Kosoff
Glenn Smedley
Arlie Slabaugh
Eric P. Newman
Kenneth Bressett
Donn Pearlman
Walter Breen
Ed Reiter
David Alexander
James L. Miller
Q. David Bowers
David L. Ganz
Clifford Mishler
R.W. Julian
Russell Rulau
Elvira Clain-Stefanelli



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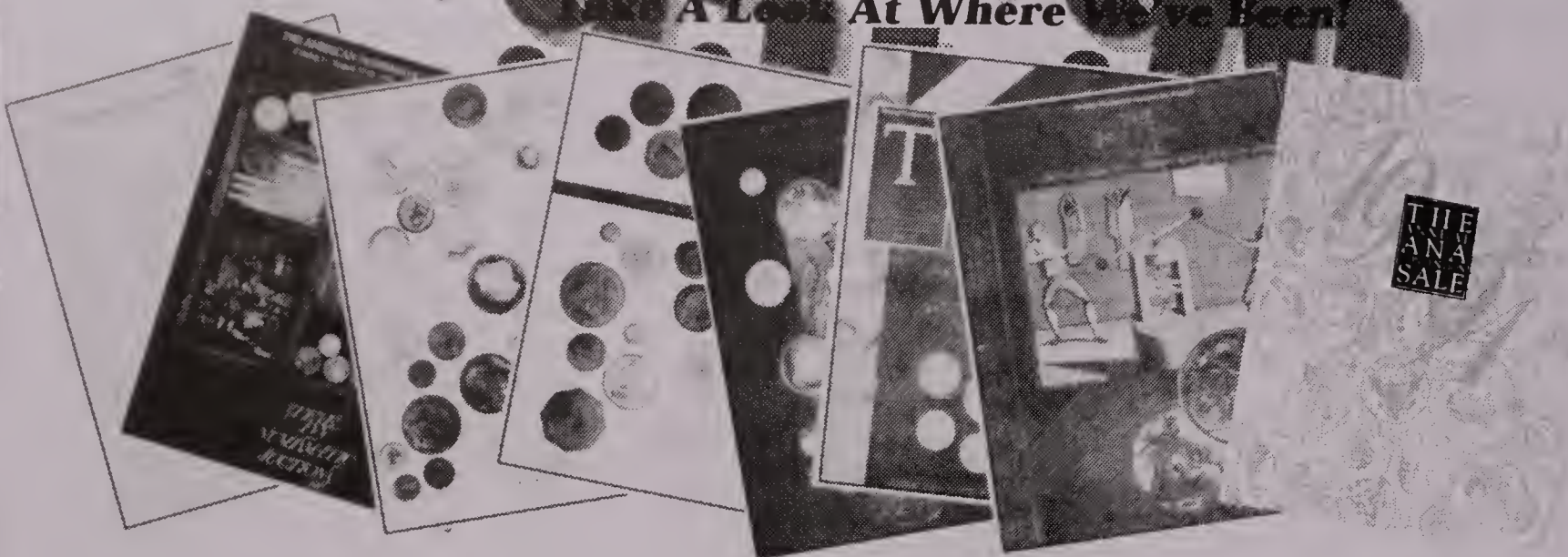
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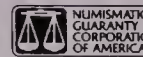
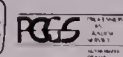
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Calling All Yanks!...

Porthcawling All Yanks! or Remembering the GIs

Many NLG members will remember Michael (Mike) Mansley, the cheery Royal Mint executive who was a regular at ANA conventions through most of the '80s. Now retired, Mike wonders how he ever found time to go to work! But he has found time to write a splendid book, just published in the United Kingdom, which could stir some memories for many GIs who spent time in Britain in the weeks and months leading up to D-Day and the invasion of Europe. Even more vivid will be the memories for those American servicemen who spent time in the little South Wales town of Porthcawl where Mike now lives.

Mansley's book, "Porthcawl at War, 1939 - 1945," describes the way in which the civilians in the town handled the threats of invasion and air attack by the enemy, as well as the friendly "invasion" of Porthcawl by thousands of British, Dutch, Polish troops and airmen and GIs.

Porthcawl still remembers the men of the 107th Field Artillery Battalion (28th Division), the 290th Regiment of the 75th Division and the many units of the U.S. Engineers who were billeted in the town during 1943 and 1944. More than 40 photographs serve as reminders of those men and of those times.

With his usual sense of humor intact, Mansley delivers an account of events which is historically accurate and full of interest, recounting anecdotes which make us chuckle, then telling of the sad loss of men who never even made it to Europe! With the anniversary of D-Day just celebrated and the 50th anniversary of the end of the war approaching, this is a timely reminder of sacrifice, camaraderie and human spirit.

"Porthcawl at War" can be ordered through Orchard Communications Inc. P.O. Box 937, Millbrook, NY 12545. Priced at \$13.50, including postage and packing. Checks or money orders are requested.

ACHIEVING PARODY: PART 3

By Ed Reiter

I'm b-a-a-a-c-k!

Yes, in response to multiple requests (two, at last count), your NLG executive director is back with another sample of the satirical song stylings enjoyed (?) for the past decade by regular attendees at the Guild's annual Bash.

For those of you fortunate enough to have missed both the last 11 Bashes and the last two issues of the NLG Newsletter, I should explain that at each of our yearly gatherings since 1984, I have provided "entertainment" in the form of a parody set to the tune of a well-known piece of music.

Two issues ago, the Newsletter carried the lyrics I sang in 1991 as a tribute to our beloved American Numismatic Association, then observing its 100th anniversary. These were set to the stirring strains of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

In the last issue, we went all the way back to 1984 to publish the lyrics of my very first NLG Bash parody: the one I delivered in 1984

to "honor" that year's convention host city, Detroit. That one was set to the tune of "Kalamazoo," a Swing Era favorite popularized by the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Having tapped that vein of nostalgia and found it most rewarding (not to mention rewording), I've decided to return to it this month by sharing with readers the lyrics I sang in 1989, at the NLG Bash in Pittsburgh, to the tune of another Big Band hit: "I've Heard That Song Before," a 1940s favorite identified most closely with Harry James.

This time, the target — excuse me, the object of tribute — was the practice of "cracking" certified coins out of their plastic holders and resubmitting them in an effort to obtain a higher grade. Obviously, my small satirical effort did nothing to discourage that practice, for the sound of cracking plastic continues to be heard throughout the land.

In any case, here's what I sang:



*It seems to me I've seen that coin before;
It's from an old familiar store.
I know I've read
Its ped-igree.*

*It's strange how 64's
Go through revolving doors
And never come out as 63's.*

*I know each scratch,
Because they match that coin before —
The one that suffered through a war.
It's 66 with PVC.*

*Please have them crack it again,
Then I'll remember just when
I've seen that scroungy coin before.*

The Association of Personalized Medal Issuers (APMI)

APMI was founded on Dec. 8, 1984, by Jerry Remick. Membership is open to anybody interested in issuing or collecting personalized medals. At present there are 91 members, of which 53 have personalized reverse dies for 38mm medals. The dies were cut by Pressed Metal Products, 505 Alexander St., Vancouver, B.C., V6A 1C8 (telephone 604-251-2454).

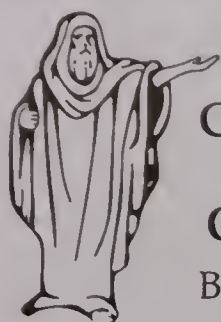
Four quarterly issues of the Association's illustrated 30-page journal, *The Personalized Medalist*, are issued yearly. For the past several years, each member received a complimentary personal medal with each issue of *The Personalized Medalist*. The medals were donated by APMI members. The journal was first issued in 1985 and limited quantities of all back issues are still available with the complimentary medals that accompanied them.

APMI members range in age from 14 to our enthusiastic Walter Loudon at 93. The Association has no officers, no rules, or constitution, and no regular meetings. An informal get-together is held at each CNA Convention, usually with the CATC get-together.

Members make a yearly contribution of \$12, and some give more to pay for *The Personalized Medalist*, of which Jerry Remick is editor. For further details, write:

Jerry Remick
Box 9183
Ste. Foy, Quebec
G1V 4B1

EDITOR'S NOTE: This will serve to introduce Peter Mosiondz Jr., a well-established writer in the philatelic field who is now branching into numismatic journalism and has just joined the NLG.



The Ten Commandments For A Good Interview

By Peter Mosiondz Jr.

Over the years, I have conducted my share of interviews, primarily philatelic and sports-related, and I readily admit that the first few were carried out with some measure of trepidation.

Since quivering my way through that first one in 1982, I kept a list of do's and don'ts that have now evolved into my personal Ten Commandments of interviewing. Hopefully, the lessons I've learned and the experiences I've gained along the way will help you avoid my earlier tribulations.

Here, then, are my top 10 tips and techniques, presented in no particular order of importance:

- (1) **Ask for 15 or 20 minutes of time from the person to be interviewed.**

I have found this to be about the most you can expect, at least willingly, from your subject without expectations of recompense. At the end of the predetermined time limit, you can always say, "Our time is up but I have a couple more things to ask you. Would you mind?" If handled right, you just bought yourself an extra five or 10 minutes.

- (2) **Tell the prospective interviewee the topics you'd like to discuss.**

This will enable your subject to have suitable notes or reference material available when you call or visit.

- (3) **Make a list of a dozen or so questions that you'd like to**

ask, but remember to follow the flow of his/her answers.

- (4) **Ask for permission to tape the conversation.**

This will help avoid, "I didn't say that!" somewhere down the road.

- (5) **Leave an open door.**

For example, "If I have to clarify any of this information, can I get back to you?" If you legitimately need to contact this individual again, you also have an opportunity to ask another question or two. If you taped the interview, tape the follow-up, as well.

- (6) **It is much better to say, "I'd like to talk to you about...." or, "I'd like to have your opinion on....," rather than rattling off a list of questions.**

- (7) **The person being interviewed does the talking.**

And don't interrupt. Leave a "blank space" of about a second or two at the end of what appears to be the closing word of the reply. This tactic also allows the individual to add something to the reply that otherwise might have been omitted. It can suggest that you would like something additional. Last, but not

least, the momentary delay ploy helps put the subject at ease. Having been on the other side of the fence during an interview, I can tell you that nothing is more unsettling than having to respond to rapid-fire questions without an adequate opportunity to provide a complete answer.

- (8) **ABC.**

Always Be Courteous.

This is especially important if you want to be invited back, or if you have any hopes of doing an interview with another person in this corporation.

- (9) **At the conclusion, tell the interviewee that is is over and ask if there is anything that he/she would like to add.**

This is also the time to clarify anything said earlier by either party.

- (10) **Thank the interviewee sincerely for spending this valuable time with you.**

Finally, ask your publisher to send your subject a copy of the publication that will contain the interview.

Remember, interviews do not have to be the substance of biographical articles. Well-placed quotes help to spice up every well-written story.



COINage Publisher Jim Miller and longtime Philadelphia coin dealer Harry J. Forman, both veteran Guild members, comparing notes during the ANA convention in Detroit.



Growing Paeans

Others may speak of "growing pains" — but as far as the NLG is concerned, there's nothing the least bit painful about growth. New blood is essential to the Guild's continued development, and we always welcome new members with open arms.

We've welcomed quite a few new members in recent months — as well as a new member club: The American Numismatic Society has joined the Guild as an organizational member, thanks to the persuasive efforts of NLG Board member Margo Russell, who also is a member of the ANS governing council. We're delighted to establish this new, closer bond with the society, and look forward to working together on many future endeavors for the mutual benefit of both organizations' members (many of whom we have in common).

We're also welcoming back a former member: Serge Pelletier of Sainte-Julie, Quebec, has rejoined the Guild after an absence of quite a few years. Serge is an authority on Canadian tokens and has written extensively on the subject.

Ten brand-new individual members also have joined the Guild since the last Newsletter appeared, and we're pleased to introduce them at this time:

- Robert S. Archer Jr. of New York City, a numismatist at Stack's and a regular contributor to *Coin World* who formerly headed the New York numismatic operations of Spink's, Sotheby's and William Doyle Galleries. Sponsored by David T. Alexander.

- Mark Borckardt of Wolfeboro, N.H., senior numismatist at Bowers and Merena Galleries, who wrote "Coinage of the Confederacy," is editing Walter Breen's "Encyclopedia of U.S. Large Cents" and is a contributor to *Rare Coin Review* and *Penny Wise*. Sponsored by Q. David Bowers.

- Carl Honore of Sequim, Wash., a specialist in Early American coppers and English and Russian coinage who has had several articles published in *Coin World*. Sponsored by Dr. Richard Doty.

- Frank Leone of College Point, N.Y., author of "Longacre's Two-Cent Piece, Die Varieties & Errors" and a contributor to *Errorscope* and *Longacre's Ledger*. Sponsored by Ed Reiter.

- Michael Marotta of Fowlerville, Mich., a self-employed writer who has written extensively on computer-related subjects and contributed articles to *Coins Magazine*, *Numismatic News Weekly*, *The Celator*, *The Mich-Matist*, *The Junk Box* and *Classic Numismatic Review*. Sponsored by Ed Reiter.

- Peter Mosiondz Jr. of Bellmawr, N.J., author of nearly 500 published articles on philatelic subjects who now has started writing for numismatic periodicals and club publications. Sponsored by Ed Reiter.

- Dr. Philip L. Mossman of Hampden, Maine, author of "Money of the American Colonies and Confederation," which was judged Best Specialized Book on U.S. coins in the NLG's 1994 Writers' Competition, and associate editor of the *Colonial Newsletter*. Sponsored by Margo Russell.

- Andrew W. Pollock of Wolfeboro, N.H., a numismatist

at Bowers and Merena Galleries who is the author of "U.S. Patterns and Related Issues" and a contributor to *Rare Coin Review* and *The Gobrecht Journal*. Sponsored by Frank Van Valen.

- Stephanie Anne Schultz of Lodi, Wis., office manager of *The Celator* and a frequent contributor to the publication. Sponsored by Wayne Sayles and Steven Sayles — her father and brother, respectively.

- Frank W. Van Zandt of Livonia, N.Y., secretary-treasurer of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society and a regular contributor to *The Asylum*, the society's quarterly journal. Sponsored by Fred Lake.



IT'S 2
MORE
YEARS
FOR DAVE
AND
MARGO

The NLG Board of Directors will continue to enjoy the services of Q. David Bowers and Margo Russell for two more years. They were reelected without opposition in the Guild's recent election.

The other three Board members -- David T. Alexander, Col. Bill Murray and Scott Travers — will complete two-year terms next July, and all will be eligible for reelection. Current bylaws permit two consecutive terms, for a total of four years' service.

A call for additional nominations will be published in the Newsletter in the spring.



We thank the members of NLG whose articles
have enriched COINage magazine since 1964.

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We
Invite
Your
Submissions



NLG NEWSLETTER

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